

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCAL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, CA, US

SUBJECT: OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE FOR U.S. HELICOPTERS

REF: JOHNSON-SMITH TELCON JULY 22

1. U.S. MILITARY HELICOPTERS HAVE BEEN OPERATING RECENTLY IN YUKON TERRITORY AND BRITISH COLUMBIA TO RENDER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO AMERICANS STRANDED BY ALCAN HIGHWAY WASHOUT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CLEARANCES FOR THESE FLIGHTS WERE OBTAINED FROM REGIONAL CANADIAN AUTHORITIES. TWO SMALL U.S. HELICOPTERS ARE REPORTED TO BE STILL IN CANADA AT WATSON LAKE, YUKON TERRITORY AND DESIRE TO COMPLETE WELFARE MISSION EXITING CANADA BY COB JULY 23.

2. WE UNDERSTAND PER TELECON THAT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT IN OTTAWA HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THESE U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN CANADA AND, WHILE UNDERSTANDING EMERGENCY SITUATION AND NOT DISPUTING FACT THAT

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ROUTINE FLIGHT CLEARANCES MAY HAVE BEEN OBTAINED,

BELIEVES THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ADVANCE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION.

3. EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO CONFIRM EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FACT OF THESE FLIGHTS AND THEIR PURPOSE. YOU MAY EXPRESS

REGRET FOR ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ON PART OF U.S. AUTHORITIES IN ALASKA, WHO ACTED IN GOOD FAITH AFTER ACCOMPLISHING WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS APPROPRIATE AND SUFFICIENT COORDINATION WITH REGIONAL CANADIAN AUTHORITIES. YOU MAY ALSO ASSURE EXTAFF WE WILL INITIATE PROPER COORDINATION IF SIMILAR EMERGENCIES ARISE IN THE FUTURE.

4. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE WOULD HOPE EXTAFF COULD AGREE THAT U.S. PERSONNEL COULD NOW COMPLETE TASK AND RETURN TO BASE PROMPTLY.

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